



CHURCH OF THE LIVING GOD, INC.



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EDUCATE – ENGAGE – CONNECT



Holy Greetings In the Yuletide Season
Bishop Theodore Nelson Brown
President General

We are hoping that your Thanksgiving Day Celebration was observed in thanksgiving. As we enter the Yuletide Season, Proverbs 16:1-3 gives what I call “The Law of Navigation.” “The preparation of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, is from God. All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; but the Lord weigheth the Spirit. Commit thy works unto the Lord, and thy thoughts shall be established.”

Three messages are given to us that teaches us to:

1. Check the source of our wisdom,
2. Check our motives for our action,
3. Check the outcome we are pursuing by our choices in life.

Let Us Put Christ Back Into Christmas as we look forward to a Merry Christmas – And a very Happy New year.

Christ, the only begotten Son of God, looked upon the sinful world and realized its need for

Help, In council with the Father, it was agreed that He would give up His high and exalted place and bring to sinful men,

Redemption. He would come to earth in person and through the – The miracle of birth, He would become the,

Incarnation of God in human flesh. He would be born of a virgin – With God as His Father, and enter into the sinful world as its

Saviour. His holiness, His exemplary life, His sinlessness, His plan of redemption, His death, and His

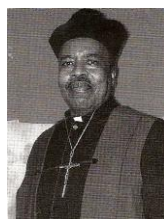
resurrection would bring to earth the great **Transformation** needed by all mankind. So He came as decided in the council of eternity, and through His coming He brought the **Melody** of heaven to earth. A Babe in swaddling clothes, divine, whose birth was announced by the singing of angels on high – Was to bring

Assurance to all mankind that God cared enough to send His only begotten Son that all who believe in Him might have

Salvation and eternal life. Only through personal acceptance of Him – God’s great gift to man, can there be real CHRISTMAS in the human heart.

“A Very Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year To All”

From the Family of the late Bishop Philip Lewis



Bishop Phillip Henry Lewis,
Presiding Prelate-FL Gold Coast
A faithful servant-Leader in CLG
Founding Pastor in Georgia & FL
From 1951 - 2011

On behalf of my family and myself, I wanted to and I would like to thank everyone for thinking of us during this difficult time. Our father was a major player in our circle. My family and I appreciate all the cards, letters, flowers, and well wishes. It’s nice to know that we have thoughtful friends. Please know your kindness during this hard time has meant so much to our family. Thanks again for your prayers and support.

With love,
 Gwen Bemby & Family

Church of the Living God 2012 Conventions Calendar

January 16, 2012 ANNUAL FELLOWSHIP DAY/DR. KING CELEBRATION

11:00 AM – Flatwood Grove CLG, Tupelo, MS-
Bishop H.L. Coleman & Bishop G. T. Howell,
Guest Bishops, Bishop Theodore Brown, President
General

January 17 - 18, 2012 BISHOPS' CONFERENCE

Tupelo, MS Bishop Theodore Brown, President
General

February 11, 2012 ANNUAL PEARL GRANT DAY

11:00am – Agape Fellowship CLG,
Tolland St., East Hartford, CT –Elder
Eugene Taylor, Host Pastor –Elder Edith
Wilson, National Foreign Mission
President

March 15 - 17, 2012 NATIONAL MUSIC CONFERENCE

Convenes at First Church CLG, 70 Whitney
St., Hartford, CT 06105, Host Pastor Elder
Jesse White, Jr. and Sheraton–Hartford
Hotel, 100 East River Dr., East Hartford, CT
06108–Reservations: 860-528-9703 – Sis.
Margaret Estelle, National Minister of
Music, Bishop Barbara Farmer, Liaison
Bishop

May 14 – 17, 2012 52nd NATIONAL FOREIGN MISSION CONVENTION

Convenes at Crown Plaza Hotel, 23 S. 2nd
Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101. Toll free
number (877) 270-1412. Reservation \$79.00
@ 11% interest Elder Edith Wilson, NFM
President, Elder Dr. Frances Bultron, NFM
Vice President. Sister Trinisa Williams
Convention Coordinator

July 25 – July 28, 2012 NATIONAL YOUTH CONGRESS

TBA- Elder Robin Taylor, National YC
President, Elder Orlando Pannell, NYC
Vice President, Bishop Dr. L. Delores
Ward, Liaison Bishop

October, 2012 - 83rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Hotel Accommodations TBA - Evening
Services at National Tabernacle, 1100
Bethune Dr., Orlando, FL 32819. Bishop
Theodore Brown, President General;
Bishop Ivy A. Hopkins, Vice President
General; Bishop C. L. Harvey,
Executive Adm.; Bishop James
Sherman, Executive Adm.; Bishop Jesse
J. White, President Emeritus; Sister
Trinisa Williams, Convention
Coordinator

Plain Talk About Real Leaders

Samuel Bryon Hogan, Sr.

Everyone knows that it is a hard thing to find real leaders in today's society, especially within the Church. And if you do find them, they are usually already too busy. Also, if you find a good leader and train them, then they are hard to keep. They will always be enticed by other opportunities that appear to be more exciting and meaningful. Someone once said that investing in people is like investing in stock. High risk can bring a huge return or a huge loss. The greatest leaders will help you most but can also hurt you the most.

When you understand that leadership is influence instead of position that changes everything. You don't strive to be a leader, you strive to add value to people and they'll let you be the leader. Adding value comes from listening to people. If you know their heart you know exactly where to add value. Develop the part of the person they want to see developed not what you happen to think they need at the time. This helps to prevent people from being used.

Leaders should articulate goals, convey visions, communicate a direction and serve as an anchor.

Leaders should inspire hope, challenge the human heart, and uplift the human spirit.

Leaders should guide institutions, elevate their stature, enrich their character and restore their integrity. A real leader will probe the future, assess the present, comprehend totalities, and chart direction. Christian leaders are the only people who can easily give up power. You can easily give up power only when you realize there is an unlimited supply available to you from God, the real authority.

Leadership Limitations

People Limitations

1. You cannot lead people longer than they are willing to follow.
2. You cannot lead people farther than they are willing to go.
3. You cannot lead people faster than they are willing to change.
4. You cannot lead people higher than they are willing to climb.

Personal Limitations

1. I cannot lead people beyond my leadership skills,
2. I cannot lead people above my level of trust.
3. I cannot lead people past my level of commitment.
4. I cannot lead people around my undisciplined lifestyle.
5. I cannot lead people without my willingness to serve.

How do you know whether a person has leadership qualities?

If you want to know whether a person has leadership qualities you should find out what kind of leadership they have been under in the past. Do they have the capacity to create or catch a vision? Do they have a spirit of challenge? A perspective leader must have a constructive spirit of discontentment (the spirit that says there's got to be a better way to do this) and then can vision what that new way can be.

The potential leader must have practical ideas and a willingness to take responsibilities. He or she must have a completion factor and take mental toughness. Peer and family respect are a

part of the qualities needed to be a good leader. Are there qualities in this individual that make people listen? When they talk do people listen? What lengths will this person go to be liked? The two final questions to seek leadership qualities are: What destructive weaknesses do this individual have? Can they accept reasonable mistakes?

Leaders must (Ezekiel 3:15) sit where people sit. When we do, we gain respect for people's schedules and we guard workers from over involvement. Leaders must (Nehemiah 4) create systems. The wall was divided up into manageable sections with clearly defined tasks. Some were stationed as watchmen, others soldiers, and others provided food. Many other workers hauled off debris as it accumulated. Everyone understood his or her part and the wall went up. Finally, leaders must (Romans 16) give recognition. Paul gives recognition to his co-workers and co-leaders. He mentions their hard work.

Season's thieving's: ID fraud and holiday shopping

The busiest retail season of the year has already begun and with an increase in financial transactions comes an increase in opportunities for fraud artists. This year, keep your holiday shopping joyous by taking a few extra precautions:

Shopping in person:

- Even though you will be rushed and thinking about a thousand things, try to remain alert to your surroundings. When paying with a credit or debit card, never lose sight of your card. Whenever possible, swipe your card yourself rather than giving it to the cashier.
- Always shield your PIN when entering it. Don't be embarrassed – you're not insulting anyone.
- Do not keep a written record of your bank PIN number(s) or your social insurance number in your wallet or hand bag.
- If you suspect anything unusual when using a point-of-sale terminal (pin pad) or an ATM, do not use the machine and report it immediately to the police or the financial institution.

Shopping on-line:

- Shop only from your home computer and equip it with the latest web browser. Using your home computer is much safer than shopping at a terminal in an internet café or library.
- If you plan to buy something, go directly to a store's website by manually typing its address into your web browser. Don't click on links in an e-mail message even if you know who sent it.
- Verify secure connections. When shopping on-line, do not enter any financial information if you see a broken-key or open padlock symbol on your Internet browser. This means the transaction is not secure and could be intercepted by a third party. When the key is complete or the padlock is locked, your browser is indicating a secure transaction.
- Consider using a reliable third-party payment company such as PayPal, a credit card with a low credit limit or a single-use payment card.
- Unlike secure order forms on a web site, e-mail messages are not private. Do not send confidential personal or financial information by e-mail.
- When browsing auction sites or unauthorized retail websites, be cautious of drastic sale prices on sought-after designer items and popular electronics. The legitimate goods are rarely discounted.
- Monitor your bank and credit card and statements on-line. Electronic statements allow you to review your purchases and payments as they happen rather than waiting until the end of the month to review your paper statement. Immediately report any discrepancies to your bank or to the company that issued the credit card.

Other tips:

- Promptly remove mail from your mailbox after delivery and do not leave pieces of mail lying around your residence or office.
- Shred or otherwise destroy pre-approved credit card applications, credit card receipts, bills and any documents containing personal information when they're no longer needed.
- Do not provide personal information such as your SIN, date of birth, credit card numbers, or PIN over the telephone or via e-mail. There are more secure methods for providing this valuable information when it is legitimately required

- Avoid mail or telephone solicitations disguised as promotions. Criminals involved in this type of scam typically offer you an instant prize or an award for the purpose of obtaining personal information, such as your credit card numbers.

This holiday season, be a Scrooge with your personal information. If, despite your best efforts, you feel you've been victimized by a scam or a fraud, you should report it immediately to the police service of jurisdiction in your area.

Financial transactions:

- When attending to an automated banking machine, be aware of who is in line behind you and ensure your PIN number is protected from others' view.
- Do not count your money in plain view of others.
- Keep your credit cards secure.
- Retain all copies your financial transactions and/or ensure that they are disposed of in a secure manner.
- DO NOT provide personal or financial information over the phone or computer if it is unsolicited and you cannot verify the origin.

Out shopping:

- Do not leave jackets, bags or purses unattended or in a cart while shopping.
- Keep purses and bags zipped shut.
- If leaving packages inside your car, place them in the trunk out of view.
- Lock your vehicle at all times.

Home:

- Door to door canvassers for charities carry identification. Ask to see it if it is not clearly visible and call the charity directly if necessary to ensure they are conducting fundraising activities.
- Do not leave large boxes for high priced electronics or other items in plain view in your recycling bin. Either turn them inside out or dispose of them in community recycling bins.
- Shut drapes or blinds in order to prevent would-be culprits from viewing your property and/or electronics from outside.
- Contact police if suspicious activity is observed in your neighborhood.

Have a safe and happy holiday season.

Barna Group State of the Church 2011

Changes in the Faith of Blacks

The most stable group of the three racial/ethnic segments has been the blacks. During the past 20 years, they have undergone significant change in just two of the 14 religious variables tracked.

- In 1991, 38% of black adults volunteered at a church during the course of a typical week. That figure had fallen to 30% by 2011.
- Twenty years ago nearly nine out of ten black adults (88%) held an orthodox perspective on the nature of God. Today the figure is eleven percentage points lower (77%).

Comparative Standing

The Barna report indicates that the segment that possesses beliefs most likely to align with those taught in the Bible are blacks. On five of the eight belief factors, blacks were more likely than either whites or Hispanics to reflect a scriptural view. Specifically, blacks were more likely than other segments to say:

- Their religious beliefs are very important in their life today
- They have made a personal commitment to Jesus Christ that is still important in their life today
- They believe that God is “the all-knowing, all-powerful and perfect Creator of the universe who still rules the world today”
- They strongly agree that the Bible is totally accurate in all of the principles it teaches
- They have a personal responsibility to share their religious beliefs with other people who might believe differently than they do.

When the data pertaining to religious behaviors is examined, blacks stood out from the crowd on five of the six behaviors. In particular, the study shows that blacks were the most likely to:

- Engage in church-centric activities, such as attending church services, attending a Sunday school class, and volunteering at their church during typical week
- Read the Bible, other than at church events, during a typical week

- Blacks were the least likely segment to be unchurched. In fact, they were only half as likely as either whites or Hispanics to be unchurched.

Four Questions You Need to Answer

By David Church

Every pastor, preacher, and minister should memorize these words that Paul shared with Timothy;

2 Tim 4:1-5 *New Living Translation*

I solemnly urge you in the presence of God and Christ Jesus, who will someday judge the living and the dead when he appears to set up his Kingdom:

2. **Preach the word of God. Be prepared, whether the time is favorable or not.** *Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching.*

3. *For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear.*

4 *They will reject the **truth and chase after myths.***

5 *But you should keep a clear mind in every situation. Don't be afraid of suffering for the Lord. **Work at telling others the Good News, and fully carry out the ministry God has given you.***

Each time I read this letter I find myself asking these questions:

1. Am I prepared to preach; whether the time is favorable or not?
2. Am I able to correct and encourage my congregation with good teaching?
3. Do I preach the sound and wholesome truth or do I tell people what they want to hear?
4. As a minister of the Gospel, am I able to keep a clear mind in every situation and focus on sharing the Gospel to my community?

There is a popular quote that states, "If there is something worth doing, then it is worth doing right".

Preaching the Gospel is a worth doing. In fact, it is the highest calling on Earth. It involves the eternal

salvation of mankind. Since preaching the Gospel is the most worthy calling, then we have an extremely high obligation to do it right. That is the heart of the message that Paul was sharing with Timothy in this letter.

Paul stated, *"A time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear. They will reject the truth and chase after myths."* This time has come.

People are flocking to churches that tell them whatever they want to hear. People are chasing after fables and false doctrine because it appeals to their way of thinking. People are searching high and low for a message that justifies their lifestyle.

All over the web there are thousands of so called Christian blogs, apps and sites that will tell people and preachers exactly what they want to hear. Some of these sites are causing people to "chase after myths". There are very few websites that encourage and help preachers to do it right!

1. Question: *Am I prepared to preach; whether the time is favorable or not?*

2. Question: *Am I able to correct and encourage my congregation with good teaching?*

3. Question: *Do I preach the sound and wholesome truth or do I tell people what they want to hear?*

4. Question: *As a minister of the Gospel, am I able to keep a clear mind in every situation and focus on sharing the Gospel to my community?*

Nine Tests Every Christian Must Face

- 1 - The Wilderness Test
- 2 - The Time Test
- 3 - The Motivation Test
- 4 - The Failure Test
- 5 - The Self-will Test
- 6 - The Discouragement Test
- 7 - The Misunderstanding Test
- 8 - The Frustration Test
- 9 - The Servant Test

Testing is

- * Inevitable
- * Continual
- * Necessary

- * Productive
- * Influential
- * Crafted by God

Dangers of the Testing

- * People become DISILLUSIONED
- * People become DISTRAUGHT
- * People become DISTRACTED
- * People become ANGRY
- * People become BITTER
- * People become HARDENED

The purpose of every test is:

- * To reveal what we understand
- * To reveal what we don't understand
- * To reveal to us the applicability of the lessons to be learned while going through various testing's.

Leadership Lessons for Christian Leaders

- Read. Read. Read.
- Listen, look, and learn about the needs of people so your message will be relevant. Listen to the voice of your Team & members and you'll learn how to minister to people's needs.
- Never yell or raise your voice at your people. Yelling shows lack of respect for them. It also shows you have a control problem. Such behavior is beneath the dignity of a leader and lover of God's people.
- Do everything at the level of excellence. If you can't; don't do it all.
- Don't preach a sermon about a member of the congregation. Preach the WORD.
- If your leader has a weakness or is not up in a certain area, help him/her grow.
- Don't spend energy talking about and belittling your enemies even when they spend their time and energy talking about you – love them anyway.
- Love people no matter what. Always treat people with dignity and respect.
- Honor others. Let them have their day.
- Treat everybody right. You don't know who is seated next to you. The person next to you may be a millionaire or a person who you may need to help you someday.
- Always protect the church and its assets with the best legal team you can because the saints will sue. They will love you today and leave mad tomorrow.
- Go does speak to and through others. Listen for the voice of God in the proposal of people who come to you.
- Put it in writing.
- Stay on budget. Stay on budget. Stay on budget.

- Get psychological testing for yourself and continually improve your personality.
- Innovate or die.
- Always be yourself. Don't seek to be a clone of nobody, but simply a better you.
- Stay morally and biblically pure and monogamous in the area of sex in marriage. One man for one woman.
- When you give a person a job to do – give them the freedom to do it.
- Don't run off with your vision without first checking with the Leader in charge. He/she may have already assigned the responsibility to someone else.
- Never publicly embarrass anyone, but you can and should correct them in private

THE 7 HABITS of Highly Effective People

#1 – Be Proactive – individuals are responsible for their own choices and have the freedom to choose.

- Responding according to values
- Accepting responsibility for your own behavior
- Focusing on your Circle of influence

“It's not what people do to us that hurt us. In the most fundamental sense it is our chosen response to what they do to us that hurts us.” No one can make you feel inferior unless you give them your consent. No one can take your dignity unless you give it to them. Reactive people allow outside influences (moods, feelings, or circumstances) to control their responses. Proactive people use the margin of freedom to make choices that best apply their values. Their freedom to choose expands as they wisely use the space between stimulus and response.

#2 – Begin with the End in Mind – mental creation precedes physical creation.

- Stand apart from the emotion of a situation and from other factors that would act on them.
- Make proactive choices after evaluating options.
- Create a personal “Mission Statement” – a powerful document that expresses your personal sense of purpose and meaning in life; it acts as a governing constitution by which you evaluate decisions and choose behaviors. A Personal Mission Statement: encourages you to think deeply about your life; helps you examine your innermost thoughts and feelings; provides directions and commitment to values; clarifies what is really important to you; expands your perspective; imprints self-determined values and purposes firmly in your mind; enables you to make daily progress toward long-term goals (when connected to daily and weekly plans; and provides

the first or mental creation of your desired results in your life. “Visualizing something organizes one's ability to accomplish it.” One man cannot do right in one department of life whilst he is occupied doing wrong in any other department. Life is one indivisible whole.

#3- Put First Things First: effectiveness requires balancing important relationships, roles and activities. “Things which matters most should never be at the mercy of things which matter least.” First things are those things that you, personally, find most worth doing. They move you in the right direction. They help you achieve the principle-centered purpose expressed in your mission statement.

#4-Think Win-Win – Effective, long-term relationships require mutual benefits. “I see the benefit of others as well as my own.”

- Seek mutual benefits
- Is cooperative, not competitive
- Listens more, stays in communication longer, and communicates with more courage.
- Integrity – people of integrity are true to their feelings, values, and commitments.
- Maturity – mature people express their ideas and feelings with courage and with consideration for the ideas and feelings of others.
- Abundance Mentality – people with abundance mentality believe that there is plenty for everyone.

#5-Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood – understanding comes through listening. “Everyone's life is so singular, so unique. Who will listen to understand that uniqueness?” The one who listens does the most work, not the one who speaks.” When other people speak, we listen at one of five levels: ignoring; pretend listening; selective listening; attentive listening; and/or empathic listening. The key to listening is with the eyes and heart.

#6-Synergize – the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. Synergy takes place when two or more people produce more together than the sum of what they could have produced separately. “Working together cooperatively takes time but produces better long-term results.” People who are truly effective have the humility and reverence to recognize their own perceptual limitations and to appreciate the rich resources available through interaction with the hearts and minds of other human beings.

#7-Sharpen the Saw – productive (results) requires development of Production Capability (resources). Sharpen the Saw is a daily process of renewing the four dimensions of our nature: physical, mental, spiritual, and social/emotion. These four dimensions sustain and increase our capacities and help us discipline our mind, body, and spirit.